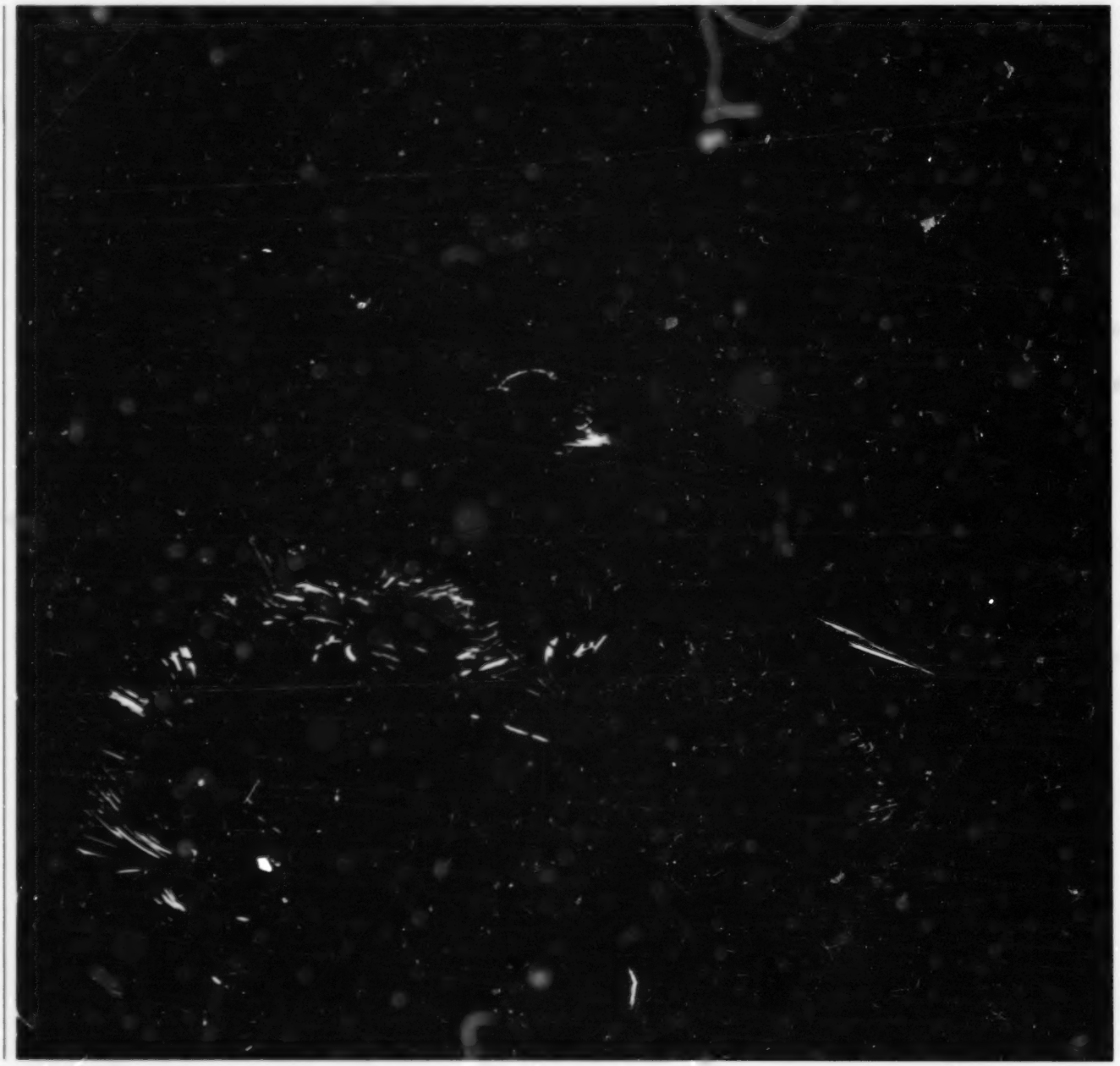
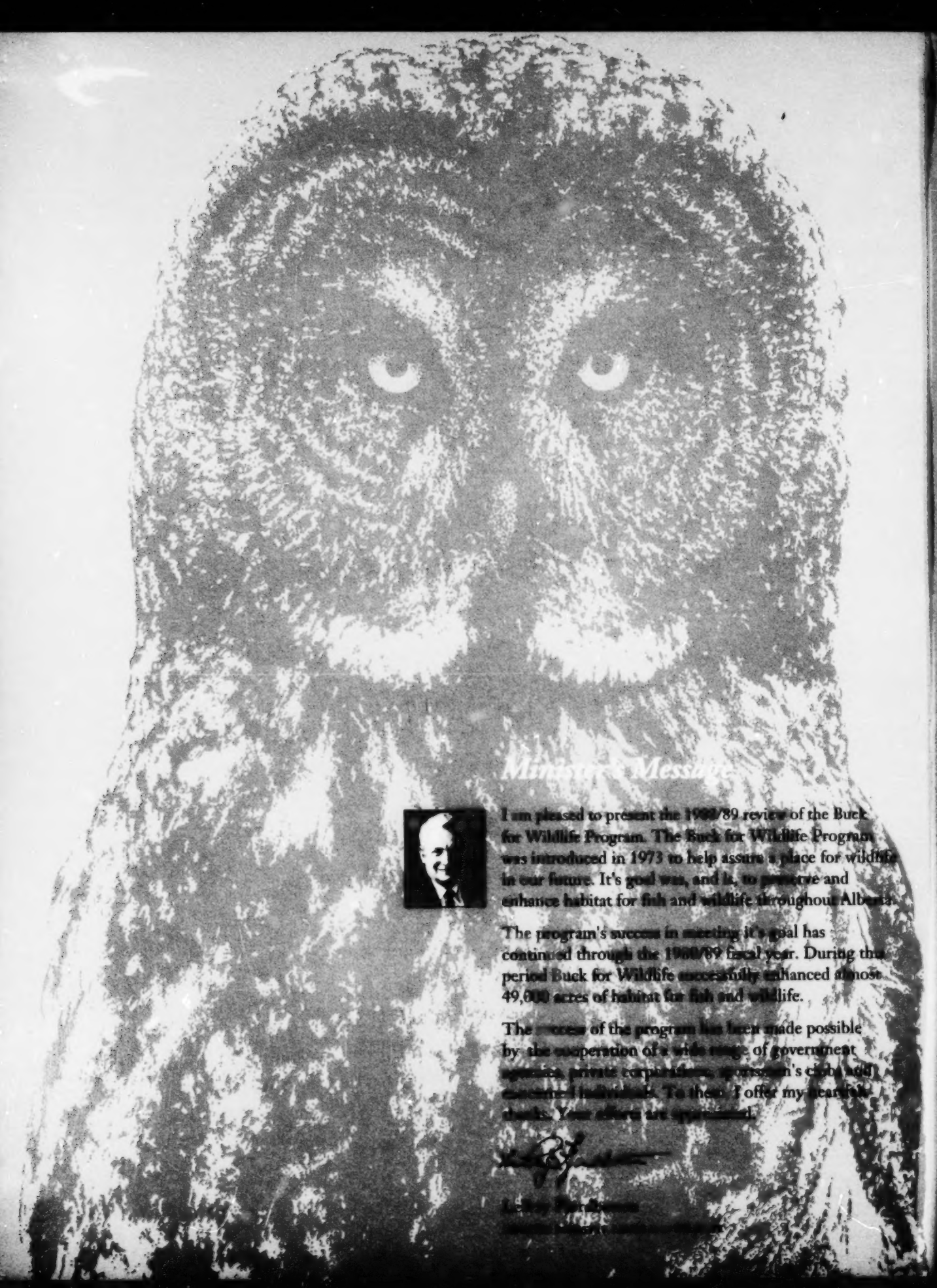
Buck for Wildlife 1989



Alberta
FORESTRY, LANDS
AND WILDLIFE
Fish and Wildlife

Habitat, a Place for Wildlife



Minister's Message

I am pleased to present the 1988/89 review of the Buck for Wildlife Program. The Buck for Wildlife Program was introduced in 1973 to help assure a place for wildlife in our future. It's goal was, and is, to preserve and enhance habitat for fish and wildlife throughout Alberta.

The program's success in meeting it's goal has continued through the 1988/89 fiscal year. During this period Buck for Wildlife successfully enhanced almost 49,000 acres of habitat for fish and wildlife.

The success of the program has been made possible by the cooperation of a wide range of government agencies, private corporations, sportsmen's clubs and concerned individuals. To them I offer my heartfelt thanks. Your efforts are appreciated.

LeRoy Fjordbotten

90-06716/

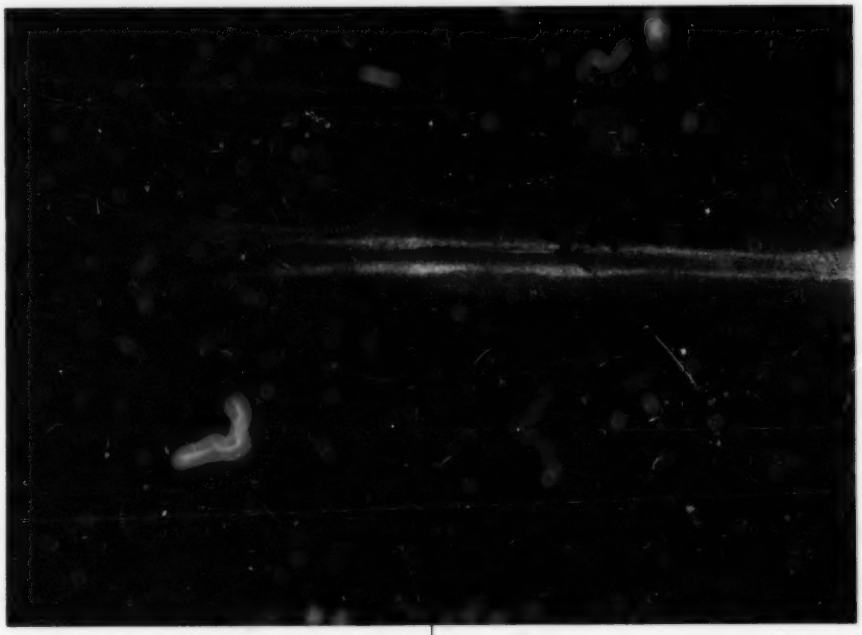
Buck for Wildlife

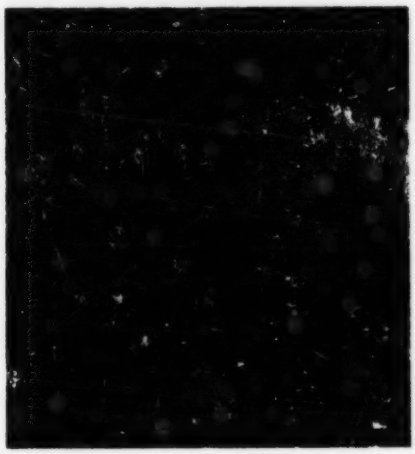
THE PROGRAM

Habitat, a Place for Wildlife

Habitat consists of the unique combination of food, water, shelter and space which fish and wildlife need to survive. One of the greatest threats to Alberta's fish and wildlife is the alteration and loss of habitat. Fish and wildlife habitat can be altered or lost through agricultural activities, forestry development, industrial development, recreational activities, uncontrolled access and urban expansion.

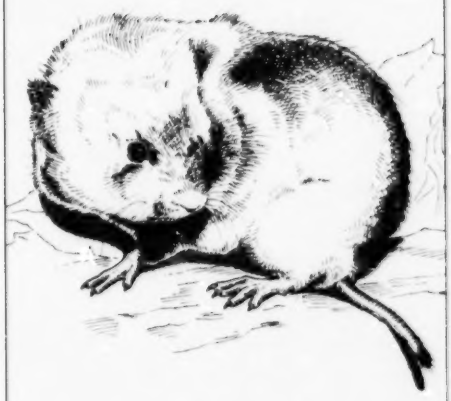
Because of increasing public concern over the loss of fish and wildlife habitat the Buck for Wildlife Program was initiated in 1973.





Buck for Wildlife Program

The Buck for Wildlife Program is administered by the Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division and is funded almost entirely through a levy on the sale of fishing and hunting licenses and tax deductible donations. Buck for Wildlife conserves and enhances habitat through hundreds of habitat improvement projects throughout Alberta. Projects are proposed by individuals, clubs, private organizations and government agencies and are approved on the basis of expected benefits to the resource and to all Albertans.



Since Buck for Wildlife was introduced in 1973, over 450 projects have been implemented to improve habitat for fish and wildlife. This includes improvements to 42,000 acres of lake habitat, 220 kilometres of trout stream habitat, 24,700 acres of big game habitat and several thousand acres of waterfowl and upland bird habitat. During this time, Buck for Wildlife has also provided over 190 grants to various organizations to improve fish and wildlife habitat in their own areas.

Projects undertaken or funded by Buck for Wildlife have included: streambank fencing and stabilization; fish shelter construction; lake aeration; lake and shoreline stabilization; pond and reservoir development; fish barrier construction; lake fertilization; shelterbelt planting; wetland development; nest structure construction; nest cover seeding; prescribed burning; shoreline fencing; and mechanical clearing.

How you can help

(1) Make a Tax Deductible Donation

Albertans can support the program by making donations to the Alberta Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund—Buck for Wildlife Program. All donations are tax deductible and are used solely for the enhancement and retention of fish and wildlife habitat in Alberta.

(2) Undertake Your Own Project

You or your organization can help enhance habitat for fish and wildlife by planning and implementing habitat improvement projects of your own. To make this possible, grants are available from Buck for Wildlife for projects which meet program guidelines.

If you or your organization are interested in making a donation to the trust fund or want to undertake a project of your own, contact the Fish and Wildlife habitat biologist in your area. See the back cover for places to call or write.

Streambank Fencing

Dogpound Creek

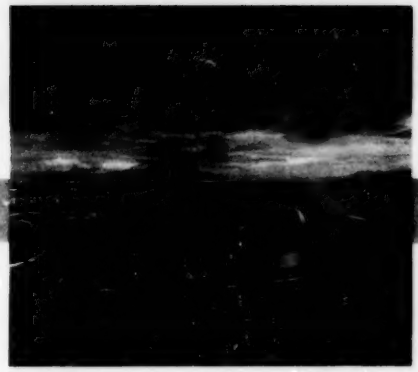
In 1985, Buck for Wildlife began a streambank fencing project on Dogpound Creek to protect the streambanks and riparian areas from grazing and trampling by livestock. Since then over 35 km of stream length has been fenced. It is expected that within five to ten years, streambank fencing will result in the resurgence of Dogpound Creek as one of the area's finest brown trout streams.

Fish Barrier

Romeo Creek
A gabion (rock fill) weir was constructed on Romeo Creek in 1988/89 to prevent the migration of northern pike from Romeo Lake into trout stocked Dolberg Lake. The barrier will allow northern pike to be stocked in Romeo Lake without harming the fishery of Dolberg Lake.

Lake Stabilization

Prairie Bluff Lake
Through the cooperation of Shell Canada, the M.D. of Pincher Creek and Buck for Wildlife, Prairie Bluff Lake was drained and excavated and dykes were constructed to increase water depths. Increased water depth will improve year round oxygen concentrations and summer temperatures and enable the lake to support stocked trout.



Reservoir Rehabilitation

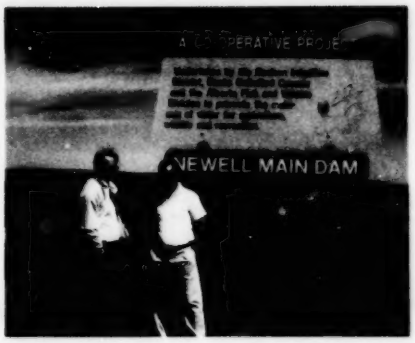
Goldsprings Park Pond
Initially constructed in 1963, Goldsprings reservoir has provided a valuable local fishery for over 25 years. In 1988/89, Buck for Wildlife, Alberta Environment, the Foremost Fish and Game Club, the Milk River Outdoorsmen and the County of Warner cooperated to drain and excavate organic materials from Goldsprings reservoir. The project will improve over winter survival of stocked trout by increasing water depths and discouraging aquatic weed growth.

Instream Enhancement

Pinto Creek
To improve instream cover for spawning bull trout (Dolly Varden) in Pinto Creek, Buck for Wildlife installed a series of cover units. The units consisting of submerged logs, current deflectors and tree revetments provide shelter close to exposed spawning beds. This increases the utilization of the beds and ultimately the recruitment of young trout into Pinto Lake.

Prescribed Burns

Sneddon Creek
Buck for Wildlife uses burning to set old vegetation back to a young, nutritious growth stage to increase the quality and quantity of the food supply to wildlife. During the past year, Buck for Wildlife completed six prescribed burns that enhanced 3761 acres of moose, elk and deer habitat.



Cooperative Projects

Eastern Irrigation District Cooperative Ventures Program
A major initiative between Buck for Wildlife and the Eastern Irrigation District was established to integrate both the needs of agriculture and wildlife into single projects. In 1988/89, seven projects incorporating water control, improved grazing and nesting island construction enhanced over 1744 acres of wetland and upland habitat for waterfowl, pheasants and deer.

Lake Aeration

Peace River Region
In 1988/89, Buck for Wildlife aerated seven lakes in the Peace River Region to reduce the risk of fish kills due to winter oxygen depletion. Oxygen concentrations in aerated lakes are maintained throughout the winter by injecting compressed air into the deepest part of the lake. This enables resident fish populations to survive for several seasons and greatly improves sportfishing opportunities.

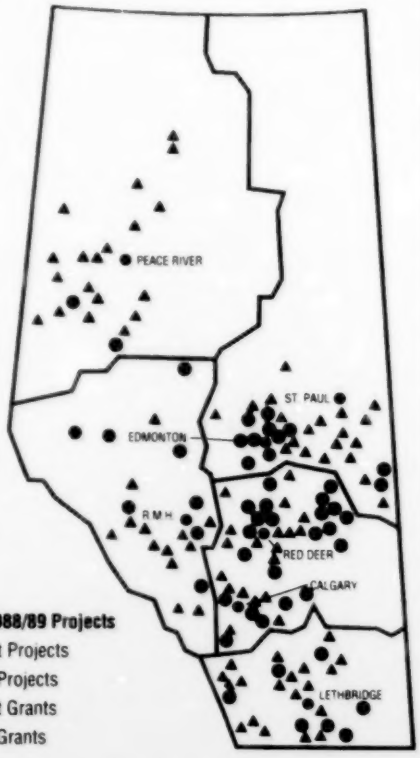
Wetland Enhancement

Small Wetlands Project
This is a pilot project designed to secure important wetlands and increase the landowners' awareness of the needs of waterfowl. Landowners

are contacted and various wetland enhancement opportunities are identified. To date, 27 landowners have agreed to enhance 1591 acres of wetlands using rock islands, nest bales and seeding to provide nest cover.

Grant Projects

Harold Creek Moose Habitat Improvement
The Rimbey and Calgary Fish and Game Clubs and the Hoadley Trappers Association each received funding to improve moose habitat by mechanically clearing 520 acres of old growth willow. This increases the food supply to moose by allowing grasses, shrubs and young trees to grow.



Buck for Wildlife 1988/89 Projects
- ▲ Fisheries Habitat Projects
- ▲ Wildlife Habitat Projects
- ● Fisheries Habitat Grants
- ● Wildlife Habitat Grants

Upland Enhancement

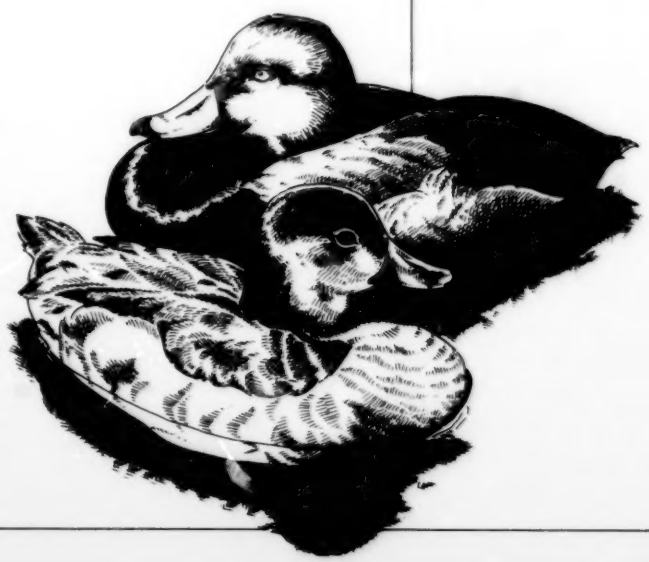
Feltham Project
The Feltham Project consists of 450 acres of pristine parkland habitat situated in an area devoted mainly to agriculture. Improvements to the property have included fencing, access road construction and the planting of a food and cover crop for waterfowl and deer. This area offers enjoyment to a variety of recreation groups.

Landowner Habitat Program

Under this program a variety of incentives are offered to encourage landowners to preserve and enhance wildlife habitat on their lands. The intent is to conserve the best of the remaining habitat in predominantly agricultural areas.

Goals for the program are to encourage good land management practices such as rest rotation grazing, selective hay cutting and soil conservation strategies in the agricultural community. In the first three years of operation over 25,000 acres of wildlife habitat have been retained through 170 signed landowner agreements.

Partial funding for the program was provided by Wildlife Habitat Canada.



Riparian Habitat Project

The riparian zone bordering streams and rivers is of critical importance to many fish and wildlife species. The unique and productive habitat in the riparian area provides shade, shelter and forage for many wildlife species and is important in maintaining water quality and instream habitat for fish.

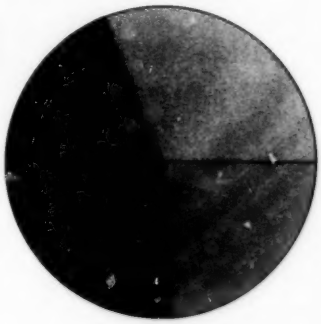
The Riparian Habitat Project was initiated in 1988 by Alberta Fish and Wildlife with funding support from Wildlife Habitat Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. It's goal is to preserve riparian habitat on private lands. Like the Landowner Habitat Program it offers various financial incentives to landowners for the retention of habitat. Initially it will operate as a three year pilot program on the middle and lower reaches of the Battle River.

Revenue

Total revenue for the Buck for Wildlife program during the 1988/89 fiscal year (April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989) was $2.9 million. Of this amount $1.3 million was generated from a $6.00 levy on the sale of hunting licenses and $0.9 million was generated from a $2.80 levy on the sale of fishing licenses. Donations, grants from foundations and trust fund interest made up the remaining $700,000 of revenue.

All income is placed in a dedicated trust fund and can only be spent on approved Buck for Wildlife projects.

- Hunting licenses
- Fishing licenses
- Others

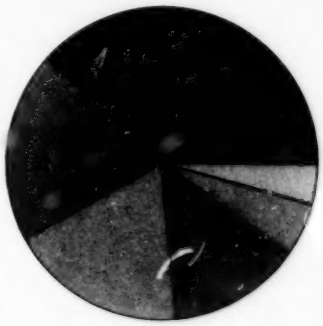


Expenditures

Total expenditure for the program in 1988/89 was $3.8 million. Of this amount, $2.8 million was used to fund 146 wildlife habitat enhancement projects and $1.0 million was used to fund 96 fisheries habitat enhancement projects. This includes approximately $0.6 million in grants provided to various organizations for 70 wildlife and 31 fisheries habitat enhancement projects.

Buck for Wildlife expenditures including grants were distributed among six major project categories:

Wetland enhancement	$1.563.000	(40.8%)
Upland enhancement	857.000	(22.4%)
Lake enhancement	515.000	(13.5%)
Administration	513.000	(13.4%)
Stream enhancement	215.000	(5.6%)
Project maintenance	165.000	(4.3%)



Acknowledgements

There were many people and organizations involved with Buck for Wildlife in 1988/89. Some of those included: Ducks Unlimited; Trout Unlimited; the Alberta Fish and Game Association; the Red Deer River N[illegible]; [illegible] Ltd.; Alberta [illegible]; Alberta Transportation and Utilities; the Municipal Districts of [illegible]; Wildlife Habitat Canada; [illegible]; and the Eastern and Bow River Irrigation [illegible].

We would like to thank these [illegible] other individuals and organiz[illegible] money or e[illegible] Program in [illegible]

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